

Ethics, Expertise, and Experience

Program

Parlor, NYU Silver School of Social Work
February 10, 2018

Schedule

Breakfast [9:30-10:00 AM] Foyer

Welcome [10:00-10:45 AM]

- Introductions
- Meeting goals
 - Problematize the ways in which expertise is granted and denied by academia, specifically through review boards and research methodologies.
 - Learn about the spectrum of impacts that research, especially drug-related research, can have on the communities and people involved.
 - Facilitate interdisciplinary dialogues and begin to build networks of support among attendees.
 - Highlight best practices that mobilize thoughtful perspectives on power, community-directed work, and expertise in research.

Grounding & Intention Setting: Harriet's Apothecary [10:45-11:00 AM]

Panel: Democratizing the Role of the Expert [11:00-12:00 PM]

- *Moderator: Octavia Y. Lewis, Community Ambassador, New York, NY*
- *Panelists:*
 - *Cyndee Clay: Executive Director, HIPS, Washington, DC*
 - *Deon Haywood: Executive Director, Women with a Vision, New Orleans, LA*
 - *Shaquita Borden: Director of Research and Evaluation, Women with a Vision, New Orleans, LA*
 - *Tamika Spellman: Syringe Exchange Peer, HIPS, Washington, DC & Founding Member of A Chosen Few, DC Drug Users Group*
- The panel will feature two examples of research and community work that actively engages, incorporates, and builds relationships with community members. Panelists will highlight challenges and limitations of their work as they strive to build knowledge across disciplines and life experience. The goal of this opening panel is to highlight different kinds of expertise and demonstrate that each contributes to a collective and more holistic approach towards conducting research.

Break [12:00-12:15 PM]

Introduction to the Day's Workshops [12:15-12:35 PM]

- Research is not conducted in a vacuum. Its development, implementation, and results are all shaped by the institutional structures that govern it. Many of these structures, such as the institutional review boards (IRBs) that assess the ethics of a project, were developed to protect research participants. However, these academic guidelines are not perfect; they contain flaws that warrant investigation. The methods that universities and IRBs encourage, from recommended recruitment strategies, to systems for maintaining confidentiality, to the types of research questions explored, can have a large impact upon the scope and depth of research that is ultimately conducted.
 - We will feature work by Peter Davidson, a Medical Sociologist at the University of California, San Diego, as an example of how one can integrate community-based initiatives and new methods to protect participants.

Session I: Challenging Structural Bias in One's Work and Institution [12:35-1:00 PM]

- The following questions will be discussed in the small group and reported back in a large group: What strategies would be most meaningful for research participants, i.e. in terms of contributions to their lives and personal growth? What are the problems or biases within these structures and protocols? How can we revolutionize the context in which drug-related research is developed, implemented, and evaluated? What role can participants play in creating and owning new research methods and ideas? What is the experience of researchers and community members in planning, launching, and running projects outside of academic institutions? How can these lessons be brought into academic institutions without co-optation, ensuring that academia gives credit to and respects the people who are doing on-the-ground work?

Lunch Provided [1:00-1:45 PM]

Session I: Report Back [1:45 -2:15 PM]

Session II: Challenging Structural Integrity of Academic Research [2:15-3:15 PM]

- As a way to decenter authoritative knowledge from institutions, we need to consider what can be realistically challenged within existing structures to limit the harms of standard research practices and to share power in new ways with those who become a part of institutionally-supported research projects. Ruha Benjamin has set forward the radical notion of working to institutionalize "*informed refusal*." In defining refusal and expanding the capacity to refuse participation in research, there is the potential to dramatically shift what participation means and create new forms of accountability for researchers.
 - This workshop will be facilitated by Shay Akil McLean, a PhD Candidate in Sociology at the University of Illinois. He will help participants begin to think about how to decolonize traditional research practices in order to transform the existing power structures and relations between researchers and community members. He will provide case studies for participants to use to identify pitfalls in current approaches and generate new methods and practices. One strategy to create better power relations is to listen deeply and ask better questions. This workshop also includes an activity to improve question building for researchers and community members.

Break [3:15-3:30 PM]

Recentering Practice: Harriet's Apothecary [3:30-3:45pm]

Session II: Discussion [3:45-4:15 PM]

Next Steps [4:15-4:45 PM]

Honoring Our Vision: Harriet's Apothecary [4:45-5:00 PM]

Networking Event (Optional) [5:00-5:30 PM]

- Enjoy some snacks and beverages as we reflect back upon the day and network with one another! Thank you so much for joining us for this event! We hope you stay in contact with us at OAE and with your fellow participants.